

Fit Testing

WAC 296-842-150

Summary

Fit
Testing



YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:

To make sure negative and positive-pressure tight-fitting respirators can provide an adequate fit and acceptable level of comfort to employees



Exemption:

This section doesn't apply to any respirators that are:

- Voluntarily used. See WAC 296-842-110 for voluntary use requirements.
- Mouthpiece respirators.

Important:

- Fit testing is an activity where the seal of a respirator is tested to determine if it's adequate.
- This section covers general requirements for fit testing. Fit testing procedures are covered in WAC 296-842-22010 of this chapter.

You must

Conduct fit testing
WAC 296-842-15005 150-2



Fit Testing

WAC 296-842-150

Rule

WAC 296-824-15005

Conduct fit testing

You must

- Provide, at no cost to the employee, fit-tests for **all** tight fitting respirators on the following schedule:
 - Before employees are assigned duties that may require the use of respirators
 - At least every 12 months after initial testing
 - Whenever any of the following occurs:
 - A different respirator facepiece is chosen such as a different type, model, style, or size
 - You become aware of a physical change in an employee that could affect respirator fit. For example, you may observe, or be told about, facial scarring, dental changes, cosmetic surgery, or obvious weight changes
 - An employee notifies you, or your LHCP, that the respirator fit is unacceptable. During the retest, you must give an employee reasonable opportunity to select a different respirator facepiece (size, model, etc.).



Note:

You may accept a fit-test completed by a previous employer **if**:

- You obtain written documentation of the fit-test
and
- The results of the fit-test aren't more than 12 months old
and
- The employee will use the same respirator (the same type, model, style, and size)
and
- The fit test was conducted in a way that meets the requirements of WAC 296-842-150 and 296-842-22010.

-Continued-



WAC 296-824-15005 (Continued)

You must

- Select an appropriate fit-testing procedure from WAC 296-842-22010 of this chapter and:
 - Use quantitative fit-test methods when a negative pressure respirator will be used in concentrations requiring a protection factor greater than 10. This includes:
 - Full facepiece air-purifying respirators
 - SCBAs operated in demand (negative pressure) mode
 - Air-line respirators operated in demand mode.
 - Make sure PAPRs, SCBAs, or air-line respirators are fit tested in negative-pressure mode.
- Make sure the person conducting fit testing is able to do **all** of the following:
 - Prepare test solutions if required
 - Make sure equipment works properly
 - Perform tests properly
 - Recognize invalid tests
 - Calculate fit factors properly if required.



Note:

- No specific training program or certification is required for those who conduct fit tests.
- You should consider evaluating these individuals to determine their proficiency in the fit-testing method to be used.
- You can use an evaluation form such as the form included in the American National Standard for Respirator Fit Testing Methods, ANSI/AIHA Z88.10-2001 to determine if the individual meets these requirements. Visit www.ansi.org or www.aiha.org.

Notes
